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FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 1901
INFO RUCNCAN/ALCAN COLLECTIVE
RUEAHLCH/HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHDC
RUEAWJA/DEPT OF JUSTICE WASHDC

UNCLAS TORONTO 000120

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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E.O.12958: N/A

TAGS: [KCRM](#) [KIPR](#) [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [CA](#)

SUBJECT: ONTARIO AG SUPPORTS IPR, PROMISES TO PROSECUTE IF POLICE
MAKE ARRESTS

Ref: (A) Toronto 45 (B) Toronto 60

Sensitive But Unclassified - protect accordingly.

¶1. (SBU) On March 15 Consul General and Pol/Econ officer met with Ontario Attorney General Michael Bryant to urge a strengthening of intellectual property rights (IPR) enforcement. Bryant said that he fully supports prosecuting those who pirate DVDs and CDs and confirmed he concurs that profits from mass IPR counterfeiting operations help support organized crime, not just mom and pop shops.

¶2. (SBU) Bryant acknowledged that resources are an issue, both for police and prosecutors. He confirmed that civil asset forfeiture is an option, as far as reimbursing the police for their cost to investigate counterfeiters, and he noted the province has begun moving more aggressively on civil forfeiture in drug-related cases. He acknowledged, however, that the civil forfeiture process was complex, requiring the police to conduct the investigation first, then formally seek reimbursement for the expended funds, which must be budgeted in detail.

¶3. (SBU) Bryant concurred that outlawing movie camcording would help to push the point of enforcement back from the point of sale, while saying that, by and large, Canada's criminal code already is adequate to address most IPR violations. Bryant said he closely follows the role of organized crime in IPR violations, and frequently mentions the issue in his public addresses.

¶4. (SBU) Bryant told the CG he is interested in participating in industry and other organizations' efforts to bring IPR issues to the public eye. He also opined that musicians who encourage free downloading of music are contributing to public perceptions that IPR violations are not a serious matter.

¶5. (SBU) Comment: We will continue our efforts to raise the profile of IPR enforcement concerns with Ontario provincial and municipal officials responsible for enforcing and prosecuting IPR violations. We plan to seek appointments with Toronto area Police Chiefs to encourage them to strengthen efforts. We will mention to them that the civil forfeiture process is one way to recoup enforcement costs, particularly against some of the Toronto area's notorious marketers of counterfeit goods (described in ref (B)). End Comment.

NAY